

## WINTER HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

### CLASS - VIII

### SESSION - 2025-2026

### SUBJECT- ENGLISH

**"Holidays are the best time to learn beyond books."**

Dear Children

Your English Holidays Homework will be assessed as Written Assignment on the basis of the following

criteria:

- Content
- Expression, Accuracy

Parents are requested to encourage their ward to attempt the work prescribed by the English Teachers on the basis of MCB and Literature Book.

1. MCB- Attempt art integration/project work from your MCB. You can choose any one given in your MCB. You will have to present it to class hence prepare one minute speech about it too.

2. Competency-Based questions (Assignment)

Attempt the included questions for literature, grammar, and written skills in Assignment notebooks.

### **COMPETENCY-BASED QUESTIONS**

Chapters: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle, Huck Finn Goes Hunting for News, Clues for Canvas

#### Section A: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. The canvas in *Clues for Canvas* acts mainly as:
  - (a) A decorative object
  - (b) A silent witness to truth
  - (c) A source of income
  - (d) Entertainment
2. Hamida's drawings are important because they:
  - (a) Are colourful
  - (b) Impress people
  - (c) Reveal suppressed truth

- (d) Are expensive
3. The Blue Carbuncle is central to the story because it:
- (a) Is rare
  - (b) Is beautiful
  - (c) Exposes guilt and fear
  - (d) Belongs to royalty
4. Holmes deduces Henry Baker's life by:
- (a) Guessing
  - (b) Questioning neighbours
  - (c) Careful observation
  - (d) Coincidence
5. James Ryder hides the gem inside a goose due to:
- (a) Confidence
  - (b) Panic and fear
  - (c) Kindness
  - (d) Loyalty
6. Huck Finn gathers information mainly through:
- (a) Rules
  - (b) Authority
  - (c) Instinct and curiosity
  - (d) Training
7. Huck's disguises show his:
- (a) Immaturity
  - (b) Social intelligence
  - (c) Dishonesty
  - (d) Fear
8. Holmes believes no detail is insignificant because:
- (a) Details confuse criminals
  - (b) Small clues reveal big truths
  - (c) It impresses others
  - (d) It saves time
9. The hat episode highlights Holmes's use of:
- (a) Emotion
  - (b) Guesswork
  - (c) Deductive reasoning
  - (d) Imagination
10. Holmes lets Ryder go free because he believes in:
- (a) Strict law

- (b) Revenge
  - (c) Contextual justice
  - (d) Personal gain
11. Huck's investigation differs from Holmes's because Huck relies more on:
- (a) Logic
  - (b) Formal methods
  - (c) Street-smart intuition
  - (d) Evidence
12. The common role of objects (hat, gem, canvas) is to:
- (a) Decorate scenes
  - (b) Create suspense
  - (c) Reveal hidden truths
  - (d) Confuse readers
13. Henry Baker is morally innocent because he:
- (a) Is poor
  - (b) Owns the goose
  - (c) Is unaware of the gem
  - (d) Is careless
14. *Clues for Canvas* suggests that art can:
- (a) Replace law
  - (b) Act as evidence
  - (c) Cause crime
  - (d) Entertain only
15. Huck's primary motivation for hunting news is:
- (a) Justice
  - (b) Reward
  - (c) Adventure and curiosity
  - (d) Fear

Section B: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS ( 30 to 40 words)

1. How does Holmes's observation of trivial details reflect scientific thinking?  
**Value Points:** Logical reasoning, attention to detail, cause–effect analysis.
2. Why does Holmes believe fear is a better punishment than law for Ryder?  
**Value Points:** Moral justice, fear as reform, contextual judgement.
3. Why is curiosity more powerful than authority in Huck's actions?  
**Value Points:** Freedom, natural inquiry, courage to explore.
4. How does fear influence James Ryder's decisions in the story?  
**Value Points:** Panic, guilt, poor judgement.

5. Explain how art becomes evidence in *Clues for Canvas*.  
**Value Points:** Visual clues, emotional truth, indirect testimony.

6. Why does Holmes value observation over direct questioning?  
**Value Points:** Accuracy, objectivity, hidden details

Section C: Long Answer Questions (80 to 100 words)

1. Compare the role of the canvas in *Clues for Canvas* with the Blue Carbuncle in Sherlock Holmes's story. How do both objects reveal hidden truths?  
**Value Points:** Objects as witnesses, emotional vs material truth, role in plot development.

2. Analyse Huck Finn's method of "hunting for news." How does it reflect his values and contrast with professional detectives like Holmes?  
**Value Points:** Curiosity, instinct, freedom, contrast with logic and discipline.

3. Discuss Holmes's decision to let James Ryder go free. Was it an act of mercy or moral judgement? Support your answer.  
**Value Points:** Mercy, fear as punishment, personal moral code.

4. All three chapters focus on uncovering hidden truths. Discuss how observation, intuition, and objects contribute to this theme.  
**Value Points:** Observation (Holmes), intuition (Huck), objects (canvas, hat, gem).

### MODALS

Q. Fill in the blanks with suitable modals

1. Riya is preparing for her exam. She knows she \_\_\_\_\_ work hard to score good marks. She \_\_\_\_\_ revise all her lessons before sleeping. Her teacher said that she \_\_\_\_\_ ask questions if she does not understand anything. Riya believes she \_\_\_\_\_ do well if she studies regularly.

2. Last Sunday, Aman wanted to go out to play, but the sky looked cloudy. He thought it \_\_\_\_\_ rain soon. His mother said he \_\_\_\_\_ finish his homework before going out. Aman promised that he \_\_\_\_\_ complete it quickly and then play for some time.

3. The school has strict rules. Students \_\_\_\_\_ wear their ID cards every day. They \_\_\_\_\_ not run in the corridors. If someone is sick, they \_\_\_\_\_ inform the teacher immediately. These rules \_\_\_\_\_ help in maintaining discipline.

4. During the picnic, we \_\_\_\_\_ see beautiful birds near the lake. Our guide said we \_\_\_\_\_ not disturb the animals. He also told us that we \_\_\_\_\_ carry our water bottles to avoid dehydration. We felt that the trip \_\_\_\_\_ be memorable.

5. Last week, our class planned a visit to the science museum. The teacher told us that we \_\_\_\_\_ reach the school on time because the bus \_\_\_\_\_ leave early in the morning. She also said that we \_\_\_\_\_ carry our notebooks to write important points.

Some students were worried that they \_\_\_\_\_ not understand everything, but the guide assured us that we \_\_\_\_\_ ask questions whenever we felt confused. He explained that we \_\_\_\_\_ touch the exhibits unless we were allowed to do so. By the end of the visit, we felt that the trip \_\_\_\_\_ help us learn many new things and \_\_\_\_\_ be an exciting experience.

### **Written Skills**

1. Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper highlighting the problem of garbage accumulation in your locality.

#### **Hints:**

- Sender's address
- Date
- Editor's address
- Subject line
- Salutation
- Clear description of the problem
- Effects on people/environment
- Request to authorities / suggestion
- Polite closing
- Proper signature

2. Write an article on "The Importance of Trees" in about 100–120 words.

#### **HINTS:**

- Introduction (importance of trees)
- Benefits (oxygen, shade, environment, life)
- Problems caused by cutting trees
- Need for conservation
- Simple conclusion/message

3. Describe the Annual Day celebration of your school in about 100 words.

#### **HINTS:**

- Name of the event
- Date and venue
- Chief guest
- Cultural programmes/activities
- Participation of students
- Audience response

Conclusion/feeling about the event

**Note: Revise the entire syllabus taken up before the winter break and complete pending work/worksheets if any.**

**We wish you all a safe, cozy and healthy winter vacations**